Empowerment of women through education under the New Education Policy

973. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the important postulates of the National Policy on Education is to promote the empowerment of women through education;

(b) if so, what progress has been made so far in this regard, since the enforcement of the policy; and

(c) what programmes and targets have been laid down for carrying out the said objective of the policy, under the remaining period of the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education 1986 envisages a positive, interventionist role for the National Education System in the empowerment of women.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to take up the project 'Education for Women's Equality' in 10 districts in 3 States namely Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. The project envisages a comprehensive programme to solve the problems of women's education as linked with overall improvement in women's status, by (i) provision of basic support services to women through the programmes of relevant Departments, (ii) reorientation of teachers, adult education/non-formal education instructors and the supervisory and administrative personnel in accordance with the concept of Education for Women's Equality; (iii) establishment of Women's Activity Centres to increase participation of women in development programmes in general, and, in particular, in educational programmes; (iv) several other measures to increase women's access to education; (v) establishment of condensed courses for education and training of rural women; (vi) expansion of vocational courses for women; and (vii) involvement of voluntary agencies and women's activist groups in training and in promoting a support system to the programme.

Cooperation between India and Turkey in the Railway Sector

974. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Turkey held discussions recently to explore areas of mutual cooperation in the railway sector;

(b) whether a high level delegation had visited Turkey during May this year for the purpose;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached, if so, what are details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the tie-ups with Turkey would held India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It has been agreed between the 2 sides that cooperation in the railway sector should include participation by IRCON and RITES in railway activities in Turkey.

(d) Technical Co-operation will promote the friendly relationship between the two countries. It is also expected to create further business prospects for the two public sector companies of Ministry of Railways.

Demand of Additional Amount by Nhava Sheva Port Trust

975. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nhava Sheva Port Trust has sought an additional amount of Rs. 75 crores from Bombay Port Trust and Rs. 50 crores from the Kandla Port Trust;

(b) whether the original estimate of the project was of Rs. 506 crores;

(c) if so, what expenditure was proposed to be incurred originally on this project and to what extent it has increased; and

(d) whether the amount of rupees 125 crores, sought by Nhava Sheva Port authorities, has been provided; if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The cost of the Nhava Sheva Port has gone up from the original estimate of Rs. 506 crores to Rs. 870.54 crores exclusive of capitalised interest. The increased cost is primarily to be met from budgetary support to be given by Govt. of India, institutional loans and loans of Rs. 75 crores and Rs. 50 crores to be advanced by Bombay Port Trust and Kandla Port Trust respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

Changes in the Rules for Acquisition of Foreign Vessels

976. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have effected various changes in the rules governing acquisition of foreign vessels; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether an inter-ministerial committee was set up which had recommended swift and simplified procedure;

(c) if so, what are the details of the main recommendations; and

(d) to what extent the foreign vessels, under the new rules would be acquired and to what extent it would benefit the Ministry of Surface Transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A revised composite application for acquisition of ships has been devised. Applicant company has to apply simultaneously to Ministry of Finance, Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India, Director General of Shipping and Ship Acquisition Licensing Committee of Ministry of Surface Transport. These agencies would examine the application and give their comments to Ship Acquisition Licensing Committee which will meet once every month and decide on the request. The revised procedure will speed up the acquisition procedure.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Inter-ministerial Committee has not recommended any change in procedure for ship acquisition.

(d) The revised procedure would speed up the process of acquisition of vessels, including foreign vessels. This would help in adding to the National tonnage. It is also expected to result in savings in foreign exchange.

Non-Utilisation of Funds Allocation for Eradication of Leprosy in Delhi

977. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Administration was allocated funds between 1980-87 to eradicate leprosy; if so, what was the amount allocated for the purpose;

(b) whether it is a fact that only one-sixth of the allocated amount has been spent; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being contemplated to utilise the unspent funds;

(d) whether the number of leprosy patients in Delhi between 1983-87 was about 4,831; and

(e) what steps are being taken to eradicate leprosy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The requisite information is given as under:—

Cash	*Kind*
Rs.33.50 lakhs	Rs. 3.28 lakhs

TOTAL :

Rs. 36.78 lakhs

(b) Rs. 3.28 lakhs have been spent by the Central Government between 1980-87 for making provision of drugs for the Union Territory of Delhi for leprosy control programme.

(c) Delhi Administration has been requested to review the NLEP activities in the Union Territory and develop plan of action.